



THE

BRECKSVILLE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pillar

OCTOBER 2022



TO BE LOVING, SERVING, AND ACCEPTING
OF ALL PEOPLE
WITH GOD'S LIFE-CHANGING POWER
AND GRACE

Pastor's Ponderings.....

"Young people these days have bad manners and contempt for authority. They are disrespectful toward their elders and prefer idle chatter over exercise." - Socrates

A lot has changed in the 2,400 years since Socrates. But one thing has not changed. People my age complain about young people. Let me state boldly what's wrong with young people these days. Nothing – that's what.

I agree with writer Liz Gilbert, *"Today's American teenagers are the most sensitive, least violent, least bullying, least racist, least homophobic, most globally-minded, most compassionate, most environmentally-conscious, least dogmatic, and overall kindest group of young people this country has ever known."*

They are quirky in ways I may never fully understand. I rarely get their TikToks or memes, or whatever they're called. OK - I can live with that.

Overall, young people these days were raised to be nicer than my generation was. They are taught to "use your words." Compared to my generation, they are less likely to beat each other up, smoke, get drunk, or hurl insults based on ethnicity or sexual orientation. They accept - in fact - they demand diversity. They grasp the indisputability and the urgency of climate change. And they are eager to promote environmental justice.

They are on their cell phones constantly. OK – I can live with that too. But I see their ubiquitous smart phones as a sign of hope. I bet that, 500 years from now, the smart phone will be considered more historically significant than the invention of the printing press in 1455. Why? Because knowledge is power.

Here's an example: If I needed some obscure demographic data for my 8th grade report, I would walk to the library and look it up. It took hours. Now, it takes seconds to get better data.

Immense knowledge is suddenly at our fingertips - anytime, anywhere. It's a powerful tool. But power tools can be deadly. The real power lies in how we choose to use such tools. If knowledge is power – and it is – then wisdom is the decision to use that power for good, not evil.

(continued)

Pastor's Ponderings..... (continued)

What will these young people do with such unprecedented power? I can scarcely imagine. But I am an unrelenting optimist. I believe they will do something good – very good. It's going to be an interesting journey.

Did Johannes Gutenberg imagine that the knowledge propagated by his printing press would spark the Renaissance, Reformation, Age of Enlightenment, American Revolution, the scientific revolution, the digital revolution, the space age and much more? Unlikely. Nor is it likely that any of us alive today can grasp what the young people of this generation are about to do with the power they wield.

I believe that they are going to do something good.

On the first Sunday of October, our young people will meet to envision what a future youth ministry could look like. Please, let's encourage all of them to show up at BUCC for that day. I don't know what they will come up with, but I believe it will be good. I want to support and encourage them; I hope we all do.

St. Peter said, "In the days to come - it is our God who speaks - I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind. Your daughters and sons will prophesy, your young people will see visions, and your elders will dream dreams." (Acts 2:17)

Yes, that is what I see happening - new visions. Young people, I trust you to dream and lead the people of my generation to a place that is revolutionary and wonderful beyond our wildest ability to imagine. See you October 2nd.

-- Peace and blessings, Pastor John



FROM THE MINISTRIES OF BUCC

FACILITIES

A new sink and faucet have been installed in the flower room. Due to the odd size of the sink and the age of the old plumbing, it was an all-day job. The result was a price tag of \$1000.

Last week during the heavy rains, a leak developed in the roof of the Arlington property. Steps have been taken to make the appropriate repairs. Ceiling damage will also have to be addressed. Cost at this time has not been determined.

The gutters on the educational wing and the Arlington rental property have been cleaned. They were completely blocked, and seedlings had sprouted. The recent flooding in the educational wing was probably due to clogged gutters. The cost was \$450.



FINANCE

Annual committee expenses have been given to committee chairpersons and/or can be found in mailboxes. Please submit figures for 2023 to Wes Novak as soon as possible.

OCWM

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER - For people of faith, voting and sharing our ideas on public policy is a way of living out Jesus' commandment to love our neighbor. Many of you participated in our postcard writing event opposing Ohio HB616. This October, we'll meet again to write letters.

We'll gather on October 5 at 6:15 at Panera in Brecksville. Using names and addresses provided by VoteFWD.org, we'll add handwritten messages to a printed letter, and personally encourage others to get out and vote. This is a proven method of boosting voter turnout up to 3.4%.

After that, we'll continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month to write to our legislators. Drawing on resources endorsed by the UCC, we'll make our voices heard on issues that matter to us.

Don't worry, we'll make this super easy, even if you've never done this before. We'll provide sample texts, address labels, stamps, postcards, even pens! This is an informal and open event. Maybe grab a drink or snack; hang out with good friends while we write. It will be a fun way to engage with others and make our voices heard.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

ALL SOULS DAY is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed. This year, Spiritual Life will observe All Souls Day on Oct. 30th, during our 10:00 am service. Please submit names of loved ones who moved on between October 2021 and October 2022, to Anne either by emailing to buccoffice23@gmail.com, or by calling the office. During our meditation portion of the service, all names will be read and an honor bell will be rung. We hope this service will be meaningful to all.



ADVENT GLIMMERS - It IS just October, but I suspect you see "Glimmers of God" all year long (not only in November!). We've moved up the BUCC Advent Book submission date this year to OCTOBER 31st. The list of scriptures/dates is on a clipboard in the upper commons and/or Fellowship Hall. So please look around you, be aware of God's wonder, and jot down your thoughts. Compose your devotion and submit it to Anne (buccoffice23@gmail.com) as soon as the moment strikes. We look forward to reading your contribution!

(continued on next page)

SPIRITUAL LIFE (continued)



CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2022! This year's cantata is titled "Adore Him", with words and music by Ken Bryars. Practices will begin on **Thursday, Oct. 6th**, and you will be rehearsing with our regular adult choir from 7-8PM. If you've never sung in seasonal choir, please consider joining this year - it's a lot of fun, and a great way to prepare for the holidays! The cantata will be presented at a regular Sunday service in mid-December. High school students are welcome to participate.

FREE CONCERT - On **Sunday, Oct. 23rd**, at 4:00 PM, BUCC will host a free concert featuring the Cleveland Wind Trio, from the Cleveland Institute of Music. The ensemble will perform works by Mozart, Schubert, and Juon. A free-will offering will be received and a light reception will follow. Plan on joining us for a superb program of chamber music on Oct. 23!

HANGING OF THE GREENS - Please join us after church on **Sunday, November 20th**, for the annual Hanging of The Greens. We'll put up the tree, hang the garland, and set up all the other Christmas decorations, as we prepare for the Advent season. Pizza will be provided - bring the whole family- it's a lot of fun!

STEWARDSHIP

THE STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY invites you to take part in some much-deserved "Self-Care Sessions", with Carol VanDuyne, long time member of BUCC. The sessions will include meditation, mindfulness, gentle movement, and breath work. They will take place on each of the four Wednesdays in October. Join Carol in the Parlor from 11am to noon. Please plan to wear a mask to keep everyone protected. The sessions are free and open to all.



Notes & Announcements:

My Favorite Part of Worship Service

By David Ritchey

What is your favorite part of worship service? Let go, relax, and think about it.

One of our young people said she liked the happy hour. Other people have different ideas. Some like the Bible readings. This is an opportunity to study the teachings of Christ. Others like the sermon best. Some enjoy the choir's anthem or the music program.

My daughter likes the baptismal service best. She says the baptismal service makes her feel baptized again. First, she claims God's promises. Second, she renews her promises to God. And, finally, she thinks of becoming a member of the local church and taking part in the activities of that church.

The communion service is a favorite of some. We like it because we are following Christ's direction - "Do this in remembrance of me." This is a service for everyone in the church. Think back to classical paintings of "The Last Supper." And, if you think, this same communion service has existed since those paintings were new. That line of communion services has existed since Christ said, "do this in remembrance of me," through generation to generation to you.

Finally, some of us cannot make a decision. We like everything in the church service. From the moment we enter the church and the greeter welcomes us to the benediction and shaking hands with the minister. We like everything.

Think about what you contribute to your favorite part of the worship service. Do you prepare for the scripture reading? Do you sing along with the hymns? Do you put your offering in the offering plate?

Notes & Announcements: (continued)

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN GETTING A COVID TEST - To minimize the chance of getting a false negative test (often due to sampling errors), here are some things to remember:

1. Blow your nose (the virus does not occur in what is blown out)
2. Swab deeply to get enough sample, and for at least 15 seconds
3. The viruses grow and change rapidly
4. Test results may vary with differing manufacturers
5. False positive tests are rare

Let's hope this helps to get a true result. -Bob & Caroline Chandler



FAIR TRADE - The Ohio Fair Trade Network, together with John Carroll University, is hosting the 2022 "Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In and Expo". Don't miss one of the largest regional fair trade events in the country! This event is for people of all ages, with educational opportunities and panels, activities for children, and the Global Fair Trade Marketplace. The theme for this year is "Environmental Sustainability: Care for Our Earth," one of the nine principles of fair trade!

The guest speaker is Brenna Davis, from the Ignatian Solidarity Network. Other panel guests will highlight these and other principles of fair trade, inviting all of us to play our part in promoting social, economic, and environmental justice. Let's embrace fair trade as environmentally sustainable global trade.

The Global Fair Trade Marketplace will feature multiple vendors for you to shop for handcrafted jewelry, clothing and home decor items, as well as fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more!

Register to get your tickets at:

<https://2022OhioFairTradeExpo.eventbrite.com>



FLOWERS – The following members have volunteered to provide flowers this month:

Oct. 2 – Gina Cook
Oct. 9 – Sue Stenzel
Oct. 16 – Carole Snider

Oct. 23 – Tia Began
Oct. 30 – Dorie Gabor
or Janet Renovetz



***Happy, Happy OCTOBER Birthdays* to the following
BUCC Members! Please share in their joy and wish them a
Happy Birthday!***

Gayle	Jackson	October 14
Heather	Hunt	October 16
Joy	Garapic	October 21
Betsey	Wilson	October 24
Leroy	Ford	October 26
Jesse	Wade	October 30

****If you have an **October** birthday and are not included above,
please contact the church office so we can add you to the BUCC
Birthday List!***





CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2022

Sat., OCTOBER 1

Sunday, OCTOBER 2
10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 3

Tue., OCTOBER 4
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., OCTOBER 5
6:16pm Letter Writing
(Brecksville Panera)

Thu., OCTOBER 6
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 7
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 8

Sunday, OCTOBER 9
10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 10

Tue., OCTOBER 11
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., OCTOBER 12

Thu., OCTOBER 13
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 14
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 15
PILLAR DEADLINE

Sunday, OCTOBER 16
10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 17

Tue., OCTOBER 18
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., OCTOBER 19

Thu., OCTOBER 20
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 21
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 22

Sunday, OCTOBER 23
10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 24

Tue., OCTOBER 25
8:15am "Holy Grounds"
(Brecksville Panera)

Wed., OCTOBER 26

Thu., OCTOBER 27
5pm Recorder/Dulcimer
5:30pm Joyful Noise
7pm Seasonal Choir

Fri., OCTOBER 28
OFFICE CLOSED

Sat., OCTOBER 29

Sunday, OCTOBER 30
10am Worship Service

Mon., OCTOBER 31



PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

OCTOBER 2, 2022

Head Usher: Jill Zedan
Ushers: Allison Colbert
TBD
Lay Reader: Betsey Wilson
Greeter: Jon Thompson
Nursery: TBD
Counters: Marge Culver
Kathy Pastor
Acolyte: TBD
Peace Candle: TBD
A/V: Jim Duffy
Flowers: Gina Cook
Snack: Sue Stenzel
Setup/Serve: Sue Stenzel
Cliff Stenzel
Cleanup: Sue Stenzel
TBD

The rest of
October's
participant list
will be provided
in a separate
mailing – our
apologies for the
delay!

The Pillar

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United Church of Christ

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Brecksville United Church of Christ

FIRST CLASS

